

FUSION Q's... Esther Part 2: Standing Firm**Discussion Theme: Be prepared****1. Theme Question for Discussion...**

- ☆ Think of a time when you stood up for what you believed in. How did it affect you? What was the reaction of others?

2. Read Esther 3:1-11**3. Discussing the text**

*****Leader's Heads up: Focus on why Haman was so angry**

- ☆ What did Mordecai refuse to do?
- ☆ Why do you think the officers at the king's gate told Haman about Mordecai's behaviour?
- ☆ What was Haman's response to Mordecai's refusal to bow down?
- ☆ How did Haman use his authority to punish Mordecai?

4. Redirection

The apostle Paul once said that he was determined to be the best he could be for God. In the same way, Jesus asks of his followers that they surrender their lives totally to him. This is the only way that we can actually be the best we can be for God. Nothing else will do except giving all of yourself to God - total surrender. Whatever we hold back and do not surrender will always end up getting in the way of the good God wants to do in your life. What keeps us from making this decision to surrender is our own selfish desires and pride. When we are faced with the choice, always choose to follow God and his desires because they are for your benefit and your good!

5. Digging Deeper

*****Leader's key thought: Mordecai's refusal to bow down and his ability to stand firm in a tough situation**

- ☆ What can we learn from Mordecai about standing firm for what you believe in?
- ☆ How does the world pressure us to compromise our convictions? Why does the world do this?
- ☆ What have you had to risk giving up to stay true to what you believe?
- ☆ How can you better prepare yourself to stand up for your beliefs in spite of pressure or persecution?